

JANUARY 1995

OPEN ARMS

VOL. 7 NUMBER 1

..... MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

LETTING GO

I have always found this article helpful to both myself and my clients. While looking forward with much love and joy to spending the holidays with my partner and my children, I also know I will have to find a way to contend with the issues around my family of origin, as well as the losses, pain, and memories of people who were very important and meaningful in my life, but are no longer a part of my life. I hope you too will find the verses helpful for you.

- To "let go" does not mean to stop caring, it means I can't do it for someone else;
- To "let go" is not to cut myself off, it's the realization I can't control another;
- To "let go" is not to enable, but to allow learning from natural consequences;
- To "let go" is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands;
- To "let go" is not to try to change or blame another, it's to make the most of myself;
- To "let go" is not to be in the middle arranging all the outcomes, but to allow others to affect their own destinies;
- To "let go" is not to care for, but to care about;
- To "let go" is not to fix, but to be supportive;
- To "let go" is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being;
- To "let go" is not to be protective, it's to permit another to face reality;

- To "let go" is not to nag, scold, or argue, but instead to search out my own shortcomings and correct them;
 - To "let go" is not to adjust everything to my desires, but to take each day as it comes and cherish myself in it;
 - To "let go" is not to regulate anybody, but to try to become what I dream I can be;
 - To "let go" is not to regret the past, but to grow and live for the future;
 - To "let go" is the fear less and love more!!!
- Author Unknown

Submitted by Cathy Lambert, ACSW, CCSW

Meditations For WOMEN Who Do Too Much by Anne Wilson Schaefer

- *Sometimes it helps to know that I just can't do it all.
- *What I am looking for is not "out there." It is me.
- *Laughter is like the human body wagging its tail.
- *Solitude is not a luxury. It is a right and a necessity.
- *My fear is real. When I honor it, I do not need to be controlled by it.
- *Decisions need to be discovered-not made.
- *We can make the little ones, and the big ones we need to wait with.
- *Sometimes we just think too much!
- *All of us are afraid sometimes, that's human.
When our life is ruled by fear, that's addiction.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

VIDEO NIGHT

"A Place Called Home" - Linda Lavin stars.
A woman moves her family to Australia to try and start a new life...will she make it?

Gloria and Julie's

Call for directions: (616)-684-4011

Friday, January 13th
7:00 p.m.

3RD FRIDAY OUT

Bruno's

2610 Prairie Avenue, South Bend

Friday, Jan. 20th

7:00 p.m.

For reservations, call Jackie by Wednesday, Jan. 18, at
(219)-291-5837



LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday

* MEETS AT A NEW LOCATION *

7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O.

Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120



ATTENTION WHISTLE STOPPERS

Open Arms has generously put up the money for League Entry, so that a place will be assured to Whistle Stop Cafe. If you're interested in playing softball, just call 616-684-4011 or write Softball, P.O. Box 1281, Niles, MI 49120. (Money will be collected later to reimburse Open Arms.)

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Jackie (219)-291-5837

Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616)-684-4011

Game Night:

Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Mary (219)-234-5986

Sheree (616)-684-6365

Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

Advertising: Kaye & Marcia

Subscriptions: Kaye & Marcia

Notre Dame Wimin's Basketball '94-95

Mon., Jan. 2 Dayton 2:00 p.m.

Mon., Jan 9 Cleveland State 7:00 p.m.

Thurs., Jan 19 Wright State 7:00 p.m.

Sat., Jan 21 La Salle 12:30 p.m.

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.

NEWS NOTES

---**SWEDISH WIMIN** carried 41% of the seats in the Swedish Parliament, making wimin more represented there than in any other western country. More than 140 wimin, many of them holding office for the first time, will sit in the 349-seat Parliament. Info from New York Newsday

---**CHINESE GOVERNMENT** is promulgating a law that will ban sex selection of fetuses, effective Jan. 1. Many people are using the test and aborting female fetuses. Under the new law, doctors could lose their licenses for performing the tests. Info from New York Times

---**SEVEN CANADIAN WIMIN** went on trial on October 11 on criminal charges arising from their blockade of Canada's financial district, last March on International Wimin's Day. The civil resistance action was designed to draw attention to the enormous profits made off the exploitation of wimin around the world. The busy intersection of King and Bay streets in downtown Toronto was brought to a standstill. The wimin were put on probation and told to "Keep the peace and be of good behavior." No one made any promises. Info from *Off Our Backs*

---**LEGIT** (Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force), has been challenging bias against lesbians and gays in Canadian immigration law since 1992. In 1992, Morrissey filed a constitutional challenge with the Canadian Human Rights Commission, arguing that the immigration regulations discriminated against her on the basis of sexual orientation by denying her the right to sponsor her life-companion. In 1994, the Immigration Department sent all Program Managers a memo advising them that they may use their discretionary authority to apply "Humanitarian and Compassionate" exemption consideration to applications based on lesbian and gay relationships. Over 50 homosexual couples have filed successful applications in the last year.

---**THOUGH LESBIANS** constitute the lowest risk group for AIDS/HIV, there is risk present when engaging in sex with wimin who have had sex with men and/or who use contaminated needles and syringes. Info from *Off Our Backs*

---**U.N. ADDRESSED** the issue of human rights for lesbians when they adopted a statement saying that lesbians should be included in the design, development, and implementation of strategies for the advancement of wimin. Activists are planning that lesbian visibility and issues will be represented at the conference, and have

already started planning to include lesbian human rights on the conference agenda. Info from the Washington Blade

---**LESBIANS** are more likely to have orgasms during sex, when compared to the results from the recently-released "Sex in America" survey.

Info from *Hollywood*

---**AN INDEPENDENT STUDY** at the University of Maryland at College Park found that lesbians and gay men earn less than their non-homosexual counterparts with similar education, training and occupations. The finding refutes the stereotype of homosexual people as an "affluent elite" unworthy of equal rights under the law.

Info from the *Univ. Of Md. and the Human Rights campaign fund*

---**TWELVE** out of 17 lesbian and gay candidates won their races according to Victory Fund Deputy Director Kathleen DeBold.

Info from *Victory Fund Press Release*

---**U of M** has voted to recommend same-sex partners in committed relationships the same medical, family housing and other benefits afforded married couples.

Info from *Kalamazoo Gazette*

---**ATLANTA...** Three years ago, Attorney Gen. Bowers hired a promising young lawyer, then retracted the job offer after he learned that Robin Shahar was a lesbian who planned to marry another woman. In her lawsuit, Shahar said Bowers violated her rights of free association and religion. Her wedding was a Jewish ceremony. Shahar's case was dismissed. Shahar filed an appeal. Info from *USA Today*

---FILMS TO WATCH FOR:

- * *BOYS ON THE SIDE*
- * *THERESA'S TATTOO*
- * *I LIKE IT LIKE THAT*
- * *COLOR OF NIGHT*
- * *THE CELLULOID CLOSET*
- * *PORTRAIT OF A MARRIAGE*
- * *EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES*
- * *THE HOUSE OF THE SPIRITS*
- * *BAD GIRLS*
- * *VOYAGER*
- * *ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS*

Info from *Charis Video Newsletter*

THE COURT OF FRIENDS

(A singles service)



O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to :

The Court of Friends
P.O. Box 1281
Niles, MI 49120

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.)

Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil).

Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O. Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. COME ON SINGLES! Someone special wants to know you're out there!

COURT OF FRIENDS SINGLES

#25...Single white female, 40, 5'5", and 128 lbs. Would like to meet female, 30-50, for fun and possible serious relationship. I drink and smoke, but don't do drugs. Butches O.K., and kids O.K. No heavies and no one over 5'5", please. Also, no Bi's.

#26...Hi, 56 years old, full figured, gray hair, blue eyes. I enjoy camping, playing cards,

long walks, movies, watching sports. Looking for honest, sense of humor, average looks...

#27...24..Creative, outgoing. Enjoy good humor, good company, and many interests. Seeking single, 20-32, moving forward and enjoying what life is offering you.

Municipal attitudes

The cities of Detroit, Ann Arbor, East Lansing and Flint have the most comprehensive ordinances that include homosexuals in the list of protected groups in all areas, including public accommodations and employment. The cities of Birmingham and Saginaw extend protection only to housing, and in Oak Park, a policy prevents sexual orientation discrimination against city employees only.

SOURCES: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, selected cities and universities.

MABLE, MABLE, SET THE TABLE



3 Navel oranges

3 bananas

1/2 cup sugar

6 oz. can frozen concentrated orange juice

1 cup water

1 cup miniature marshmallows

Peel and cut oranges and bananas into small 1/2 inch chunks. Mix in bowl with sugar, water and orange juice. Stir in marshmallows. Ready!

SHARING OUR FAITH JOURNEY

by Ellyn Stecker

Almost sixty people participated in the "Sharing Our Faith Journey" program on November 6, at Southside Christian Church, South Bend. Co-sponsored by the Lesbian Rights Committee of NOW and P-FLAG, (Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays), the program was designed to provide perspective on a process of openly accepting lesbians, gays and bisexual individuals in church communities.

Most people, whether they know it or not, have lesbian, gay and bisexual family or friends. They and lesbian, gay or bisexual people have had to relate to generally non-accepting, if not downright condemning, religious bodies.

The three churches involved, South Side Christian of South Bend, Shalom United Church of Christ from Lafayette, and Central United Methodist Church from Toledo, Ohio, each sent three members to describe the process of developing an welcoming and affirming position towards all willing people, regardless of whether they were lesbian, gay or bisexual, disabled, or what their ethnic background or economic level was. The point of view of the churches is not left to be assumed, but is visible in the church bulletins and in the church sermons and study sessions.

The churches found positive benefit to the process. While some feared and in fact did lose a few members, they all grew in membership subsequently. All stated that they felt that the newly expressed openness more closely reflected their view of Christianity and their love of God and that they saw their members become more aware of and responsive to community needs.

They commented that the process of acceptance got stuck at several points; 1) deciding when to start the process and how much time was needed to complete it; 2) facing the issue of genital sex; 3) handling the fear of losing of members; and 4) handling the pressure regarding loss of funding and/or support from higher institutional bodies. The supportive involvement of the

elders of the church and the pastors were crucial to the success of the project.

For copies of the churches' statements and/or references regarding the biblical position on homosexuality, call the Lesbian Rights Committee Co-Chairs.

Lesbian Committee Co-chairs Marge Farr and Sebrina Tingley finished up their stints with this program. They have done a wonderful job at bringing lesbian/gay/bisexual groups in touch with each other and in helping to develop consciousness about lesbian/gay/bisexual issues in the Michiana area. Many thanks and applause to them both and to their committee members.

Can You Answer This?

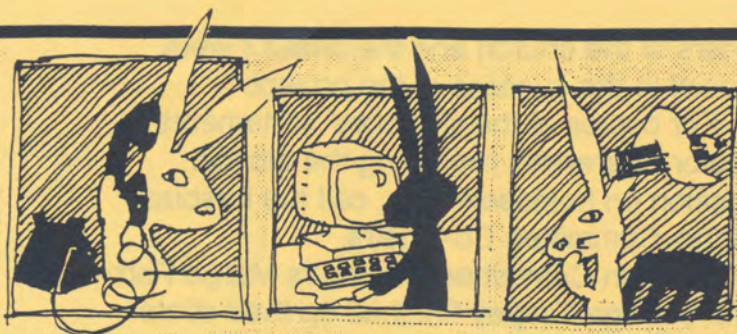
1. How long did Nt. Holyoke College President and teacher, Miss Wooley, enjoy a relationship together?
2. Who was the first open Lesbian elected to be a delegate to the democratic National Convention?

ANNE JOSEPHE THEROIGNE DE MERICOURT

This fiery singer and courtesan dressed up as an Amazon to storm the Bastille during the French Revolution; she was also the leader of the Women's March on Versailles in October of 1789. De Mericourt was an ardent feminist who was years, if not centuries, ahead of her time; she was also one of the era's most radical antimonarchists, advocating wholesale war against all sitting European monarchs. She became caught up in partisan postrevolutionary conflicts and quickly fell out of favor with the public; her untempered feminism probably didn't help matters much. After being physically attacked by a mob in 1793, she underwent a personal collapse that culminated in her internment in an insane asylum one year later. There she spent the final two decades of her life. info from "book of Women"

1. 52 years
2. Madeline Davis

ANSWERS



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12/16/93 - 12/15/94

Beginning Bank Balance		\$382.01
Plus		
Subscriptions	\$850.00	
Ads	167.00	
Donations	35.00	
		<u>1,052.00</u>
		\$1,434.01
Less		
Postage	\$327.16	
Paper	47.16	
Envelopes	23.05	
Photocopying	76.95	
P.O. Box Rental	35.00	
Bank Service Charge	24.00	
Two Bad Checks (Subs)	20.00	
Bank Charge/Bad Cks	10.00	
OA Staff Dinner	92.00	
Donation/Sister Spirit	25.00	
		<u>680.32</u>
Ending Bank Balance		\$753.69

THANKS, THANKS, THANKS again this year to our **PHOTOCOPYING FRIEND.** The photocopying charge above is for just one month when our schedules did not work out for the free copying we usually receive. Our low subscription rate is largely due to this free copying. **THANK YOU!**

Cathy Lambert A.C.S.W., C.C.S.W.
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ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising in Open Arms runs on a calendar year basis and our advertisers will be receiving renewal notices soon. Since our rates are so low (\$10 per year, or more if you can afford it, for a business-card size ad) we don't pro-rate the fee on a less than 6 month basis. If you submit your ad between January and June, the full year rate will apply; between July and December the rate will be half the yearly rate.



DRIFT-WOODS COTTAGES

Two-bedroom and one-bedroom cottages available on Lake Michigan, ten minutes south of Saugatuck, Michigan. The cottages are open year around, are fully furnished, have well-equipped kitchens, and linens and towels are provided for bedroom and bath. The living rooms have gas log fireplaces. Gas grills are provided for outdoor barbeques. The beach is accessible via stairs. Hiking trails, sand dunes, cross-country skiing, shops galleries, restaurants, antique shopping nearby. Call Susan for weekend, mid-week, weekly visits at (616) 857-2586.

*New! Opening in June...a new women's guesthouse!
Call about special pre-opening rates in May.
Book now for Holland Michigan Tulip Festival, May 4th-14th.*

Saugatuck on the river...

DEERPATH LODGE

...an enchanting retreat

Deerpath Lodge sits atop a dune overlooking the Kalamazoo River. Surrounding evergreens, oaks, and an extensive wildflower garden provide a rustic charm. The river and 45 acres seclude our private retreat from public access. Saugatuck, the infamous art colony, and mecca of innovative shops and restaurants is just five minutes by car, longer by boat. We offer three spacious guest rooms, each with private bath; one with kitchenette. A wholesome breakfast is provided.

Guest Rooms For Women



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1-616-857-DEER



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January 1995

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1	2	3 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	4 NOW Meeting St. Joe Library 7:00 p.m.	5	6	7																																																																																				
8	9	10 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13 Video Night Niles 7:00 p.m.	14																																																																																				
15 Open Arms Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	16	17 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	18 Reservations due for 3rd Friday Out	19	20 Third Friday Out 7:00 p.m.	21																																																																																				
22 PFLAG Meeting 2:00-4:00 p.m.	23	24 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27	28																																																																																				
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MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the February *Open Arms* is January 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P. O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Mary, Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after January 10th may not be published in the February newsletter.

Newsletter meeting: Sunday, January 15th, 1995. Call 271-0338 for directions.